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THE BEQUEST OF  
DANIEL MURRAY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
1925









.. The ..

Hannibal Democratic  
Club .. and .. Forum

OF KINGS COUNTY

(INCORPORATED)

Rufus Lewis Perry, President.

The Negro and Politics

Campaign of Nineteen Hundred and Ten





Harlem Democratic Club - Brooklyn

.. The ..

# Hannibal Democratic Club .. and .. Forum

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## The Negro and Politics

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The bequest of  
Daniel Murray,  
Washington, D. C.  
1925.



# The Hannibal Democratic Club and Forum

(INCORPORATED)

Executive Offices, 4 and 5 Court Square

The Thomas Jefferson Building

Meetings, Thursdays of each Week.

Lectures, Third Friday of each Month.

RUFUS LEWIS PERRY, A. B. LL.B.,	<i>President</i>
WALTER W. DELSARTE, LL. B.	<i>Vice-President</i>
ROBERT HAMILTON, Writer	<i>Secretary</i>
SAMUEL F. HORN Adjuster	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
SAMUEL A. PEASE, L.L.B. Lawyer	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
WILLIAM RUSSEL JOHNSON, ESQ.	<i>Treasurer</i>
CLARENCE A. SMITH	<i>Chairman Membership Committee</i>
ALPHONSE JACKSON	<i>Chairman Campaign Committee</i>
JAMES A. JACKSON, Broker	<i>Chairman Executive Committee</i>
RUFUS LEWIS PERRY A.B.	<i>Chairman Lecture Committee</i>
JAMES A. JACKSON	<i>Chairman Organization Rights</i>
SAMUEL PEASE	<i>Chairman Law Committee</i>
FRED A. PERRY	<i>Chairman City, County and State Committee</i>
CHARLES LANSING, ESQ.	
WALTER S. BARKER, ESQ.	
MILFORD W. JACKSON, ESQ.	

## FORUM

RUFUS LEWIS PERRY,	<i>President</i>
PROF. MELVILLE CHARLTON	<i>Chairman Music Committee</i>
ROBERT HAMLTON, ESQ.	<i>Chairman Literary Committee</i>



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**  
 of the  
**HANNIBAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**  
 and  
**FORUM.**

STATE OF NEW YORK, )  
 CITY OF NEW YORK,    )ss.  
 COUNTY OF KINGS,     )

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, of full age, being desirous of associating ourselves together for Political, Social and Literary purposes, and to create a fund to build a Club House, Home and Hall, as hereinafter is more particularly described, pursuant to and in conformity with Acts of the Legislature of the State of New York, relating to Membership Corporations, do hereby certify and declare that we are all of full age,—all—of us are citizens of the United States, and all of us are residents of the State of New York.

We do further certify and declare as follows:

First.—That the particular objects for which said corporation is formed are as follows, viz:

I. To create a fund to build, erect, construct,

purchase, rent or lease a house, home or club and hall for the members of the Club, Society or Organization, and to buy, purchase, erect, construct, transfer or trade real estate or personal property to carry said object into effect; and to mortgage or assign mortgage or mortgages for a like purpose, or to rent, lease or assign any and all leases to real estate for a like purpose; and to engage in buying, purchasing, selling, transferring, mortgaging, leasing, renting or assigning mortgages to real estate or personal property, or to do any legitimate or legal act or acts, thing or things, necessary or requisite to be done to carry said object into effect, and in buying, purchasing, selling personal property of any and all description for a like purpose.

II. To do any and all things necessary to be done in order to form a pleasant and harmonious union, understanding and relation with the Democratic Party of Kings County and the State and Nation and the Regnant Race in general, giving up all to said Party, except such as was meant for mankind; to secure justice to the members of the Ethiopian Race and insure tranquility in their homes; to provide for a common and united defense where the interest of the Ethiop<sub>i</sub>a<sub>n</sub> is involved; and to promote the general welfare of

the members of the Club and of the Ethiopian Race in general, and to secure the blessings of liberty under that clause of the State and Federal Constitutions which protects life, liberty and property to ourselves and to our posterity.

III. To act in concert, union and perpetual harmony with the regular Democratic Organization of the County of Kings in particular, and the City and State of New York in general, and to promulgate the principles and tenets of the Democratic Party among the Ethiopian Race, and influence it to espouse the cause of the Democratic Party and its candidates, and to follow Democracy as long as it teaches the doctrine of truth, right and liberty, and just recognition of the Ethiopian; only remembering that we are Ethiopians first and Democrats next.

IV. To maintain a Literary Society, Department and Lyceum for the diffusion and discussion of economic and political problems and their relation to the Ethiopian and other problems of interest to the race; and to awaken an interest in the true Ethiopian as to his duty to Government and true citizenship, in the hope to win the esteem and respect of other races as a member of the body politic, and for a just recognition of the

race to appointment to office, relying upon the doctrine that "The husbandman that laboreth must be the first to partake of the fruit."

Second.—That the corporate name by which said Corporation hereby to be formed shall be known and distinguished is and shall be THE HANNIBAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF BROOKLYN.

Third.—That the territory in which the operations of said Corporation are to be principally conducted is the County of Kings.

Fourth.—That the principal office of said Corporation shall be located in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, and State of New York.

Fifth.—That the number of Directors of said Corporation shall be six.

Sixth.—That the names and places of residence of the persons to be the Directors of said Corporation until its first annual meeting are:

Rufus Lewis Perry, 1061 St. Mark's Avenue, Brooklyn.

William Russell Johnson, 94 Johnson Street, Brooklyn.

James A. Jackson, 106 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn.



Frederick A. Perry, 1600 Bergen Street, Brooklyn.

Cornelius Hughes, 16 West 136th Street, Manhattan Borough, New York.

Sumner H. Lark, 360 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn.

Robert Hamilton, 214 Milford Street, Brooklyn.

Seventh.—That the annual meeting of said Corporation shall be held on the 1st Monday of January in each and every year.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have made and signed this Certificate in duplicate and have hereunto set our hands and affixed our respective seals this 28th day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ten.

RUFUS L. PERRY,  
WM. RUSSELL JOHNSON,  
JAMES A. JACKSON,  
FREDERICK H. PERRY,  
CORNELIUS A. HUGHES,  
SUMNER H. LARK,  
ROBERT HAMILTON.

STATE OF NEW YORK, )  
CITY OF NEW YORK,    )ss.  
COUNTY OF KINGS,     )

I, Lillian S. Buchacher, a Commissioner of Deeds, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that on this 28th day of January, in the year one thousand and nine hundred and ten, personally appeared before me, Rufus Lewis Perry, William Russell Johnson, James Jackson, Frederick A. Perry, Cornelius Hughes, Sumner H. Lark and Robert Hamilton, to me severally known and known to me to be the individuals named in and who executed the foregoing Certificate, and they thereupon severally acknowledged before me that they did execute the same for the purposes therein set forth.

[Seal]      LILLIAN S. BUCHACHER,  
Commissioner of Deeds for the City of New  
York.

I, Samuel T. Maddox, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, of the Second Judicial District, do hereby approve the foregoing certificate of incorporation, and consent that the same be filed.



I have compared the preceding with the original Certificate of Incorporation of The Hannibal Democratic Club of Brooklyn, filed and recorded in this office on the 11th day of October, 1910, and do hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

Witness my hand and the seal of office of the Secretary of State, at the City of Albany, this 11th day of October, one thousand nine hundred and ten.

[Seal.]                      HORACE G. TENNANT,  
Second Deputy Secretary of State.

### THE NEGRO AND POLITICS.

The political campaign is now on in earnest, and the Republican party is courting the colored vote. The Negro smiles at this courtship. The Republicans now cry aloud, "God hath made of one blood all nations of men," and they take the colored voter right to their heart, call him brother, and tell him of the days of '61.

As usual, speculation is rife with the regnant race as to where the Negro stands in this cam-

paign. Will he stand by the Old Guard, receive a loin of pork and a picture of Abraham Lincoln for that inalienable right called the franchise? Will he stand with Hearst, and, if Hopper is elected, he resign and allow Hearst to sit as Governor? Or will he emancipate himself from these and go to the arms of Democracy, which are outstretched for him, promising to respect his manhood rights, guarantee equal protection before the law, and thus dispel the feeling of hatred and prejudice which is engendered because the bulk of the Negro vote has been Republican and is so counted before it is cast?

Prudence would dictate that candidates submitted to the people for their suffrage be estimated not alone by their character, or the platform upon which they stand, but by the element and force which created them, and the kindred power which will shape their action and conduct, if election success should crown their efforts. From this viewpoint, the Negro should be found with the Democrats in the coming election. The Republican party is no longer the champion of Negro rights, as it is understood: that mantle it has long ago discarded. But the Negro, in his love for the party and for what it once stood, was blind, and has just awakened. It was thrown

to the four winds in the treatment accorded the Negro soldiers by ex-President Roosevelt, and the race will have but to recall Brownsville and remember that it was the bravery of her sons in marching "into the jaws of death and the mouth of hell" at El Caney that spared the life of Col. Roosevelt; this alone will be sufficient to alienate the colored vote from the Republican party in this State. Col. Roosevelt has often talked loudly of "fair play," the "open door," and the "door of hope" for the Negro. Yet, when in the South recently he did not raise his voice against disfranchisement, the jim crow car, or lynching. He knows it is wrong in principle, practice and law.

Dare he say with Lincoln, in whose company he recently placed himself in his criticism of the Supreme Court, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true; I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody who stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong." What would Lincoln say of a man who proclaimed that his policy would be to appoint no Negro to a Federal position anywhere in the South, where white men objected to the Negro holding office. For these and other

wrongs to the Negro, committed without a voice of protest from Col. Roosevelt or the Republican party, there is and will be a bitter war waged by the Negro on Roosevelt and his policies.

Negroes who have differed for years on race affairs now consult for the purpose of making a united attack. This political war will extend to any candidate, National or State, supported by Col. Roosevelt and submitted to the Negro for his suffrage as a Republican. For this purpose the National Independence League, an organization of great force and strength, composed of Negro men of intelligence and culture, will devote their attention and influence. An example of the League's attitude is to be found in the following letter from Hon. William M. Trotter, its secretary, a Negro scholar, and a gentleman of refinement, Editor of the Boston "Guardian:"

To Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.  
Oyster Bay, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

At the meeting of the Campaign Committee of the National Independent Political League in Washington, D. C., I publicly challenged you to show the courage on your Southern tour to con-

demn the jim-crowing, disfranchising and lynching of colored Americans in the South, or to publicly approve the same. You failed to do either.

At the same meeting I challenged you to a joint debate, and now send you the challenge in writing, on your solution of the so-called Negro problem as stated by you last August in the National Negro League, sometimes called "business" league. I will take the affirmative of the proposition that your solution is fallacious and false, a violation of human nature, contrary to the history of the struggle against oppression, and a drawing of the color line. I will meet you at any place in New York City suitable for a public debate, on any day except election day, on one week's notice.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WM. MONROE TROTTER,

21 Cornhill, Boston, Mass.

Soon after the receipt of this letter, Col. Roosevelt is said to have taken an aeroplane ascension. If he ascended high enough, he would have seen Abraham Lincoln, for he is in Heaven.



Where in former years the Negro press was subsidized by the Republican party to bring the faithful into the fold, a great change has taken place. An enlightened press is now in the field and neither money nor promise can swerve them from performing a duty they owe to the race. Two hundred newspapers now wisely edit their journals, having nothing but the best interest of the race at heart, and that wisdom demands a repudiation of the idea that the Negro owes any debt to the Republican party except such as is created by its acts towards the race. Up to date nothing can be recorded that is gratifying as having been bestowed by New Nationalism in counter distinction to Republicanism as created by Lincoln and expounded by Lovejoy, Sumner, Garrison, Wilberforce, Beecher, and a host of other noble and great Republicans.

This new political institution decrees that the Negro must work out his own salvation. He must stop singing, "You may have all this world, but give me Jesus," and engage himself in the activities of life. He must be a man; he must wear over his breast the motto, "I am a man and nothing is foreign to me that relates to man." This is good for the race, for it is now ready to receive the decree and will support men and

measures, rather than parties; for like every other citizen the Negro's happiness both in this life and the life to come is involved in religion and in politics. In his religion he finds his God, his faith, his practice, his hope. In his politics he finds his safe-guards to his life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. In his religion he enjoys a fixedness in doctrine and promises, and his hope rests upon the certainty of the immutable things in which he believes. He has a Jesus, who is no respecter of persons continually looking after his spiritual interests, and in that Jesus he hopefully confides; yet, with all this, the Negro like the Sons of Shem and Japheth, is divided in religious affairs and nobody objects. He is to be found in all Christian denominations.

This is a result of his liberty to think and act for himself in matters according to his understanding of the scripture. Division then results from a difference in understanding. The same is true in politics. Colored men of thought and positiveness differ in regard to politicians or candidates for office and in regard to political issues and the relative importance of the different issues. Thus differing, they go to the party of like opinion and work for victory.

As a rule, the Negroes were heretofore devoted

Republicans, but the exceptions to that rule are growing potentially larger every year. The ratio is now 2 to 3 in favor of Republicanism. We have now a strong Democratic Club in nearly every large city. Twenty years ago such an anomaly would have created a mob. The reason for this is that the Republican party or New Nationalism has parted company with principle, and made love to ambition.

Republicanism no longer teaches equality before the law; right here is where the difference of opinion steps in and begets division, and leads the thoughtful Negro to a party whose mission is to vindicate the freedom of Democracy and not the constraint of Republicanism or New Nationalism as it is understood, whose laws are made not for a favored few, but for all, and whose glory lies not in the ambition of any single man or set of men, but in the well-being of all citizens; and in this spirit it is a duty the Negro owes to himself and to his race to array himself against the forces that are against his interests and ally himself with those most conducive to his happiness. The history of the Republican party in the last ten years towards the Negro, is a history of an abandonment of those principles for which the Negro gave his

suffrage and support. The record of the Democratic party and its leaders in the North during the same period is one of respect for manhood rights and the right of the black man, and a desire to accord him representation in office according to his numerical strength and fitness.

In the South, it is different, simply because the Negro has always been found and counted with the Republican party, irrespective of platform or candidate, and has thereby demonstrated hostility to the majority, who retaliated by passing laws hostile to him. This is the natural result of political hostility. It was true one hundred years ago, it is true to-day and it will be true one hundred years hence, and those with whom the Negro cast his vote were unable to afford him relief. The Northern Republican failed to interfere with this unjust legislation brought about by reason of the Negro's fidelity to the party, for fear of winning disfavor with the regnant South, or heeded the cry to let the South settle the question in its own way as President Taft has allowed. In this condition the Negro has found himself in a most unfortunate situation, and his love for the Republican party has been the direct means of his disfranchisement, and when appeal for relief has been made to that

party having control of both branches of Congress, it was denied.

In nearly every case where an appeal has been made to a Republican Supreme Court to redress the wrongs committed upon the race, the same has been denied. This treatment is just the opposite to that accorded the race by the Democrats, and we find in our city colored Democrats drawing salaries of more than one hundred thousand dollars, through influence of the Hon. Chas. F. Murphy of New York County and Hon. John E. McCoey of Kings County, and one Negro was elected judge on the Democratic ticket.

Predicated upon representation according to numerical strength this is reasonable, contrasted with what the colored Republicans got from Gov. Hughes when they supported him and his party. The ratio is one hundred to nothing. We have a Democratic mayor in our city, the like of which New York has never witnessed. Treating all classes and creeds alike under the law and giving special privileges to none, with Mayor Gaynor it is not a question of color or creed, but one of fitness for office and our city government is run in an orderly way without fuss or fume, and the individual right of each citizen

is respected. The Negroes supported Justice Gaynor because they knew him, and an instance of his strength of character, fitness and fairness is found in his refusal to follow the appeal of public clamor to suppress certain pictures due solely to race prejudice. Roger Taney was a brilliant man, but he subordinated his intelligence to the prejudices of the times. Both Mayor Gaynor and Roger Taney were justices, one had and the other has great opportunities before him, the difference between the two men is the difference between our city and State government. One Democratic, the other Republican; one firm, the other tottering under the weight of political demagogues, requiring investigating committees before election to give it the appearance of stability.

Look at the legislature to-day. There is more demagoguery in it in vocalized form than ever before. It is because principle has been placed aside and ambition is in the ascendancy. The Independence League once had a hold upon a portion of the Negro vote, but the attitude of Mr. Hearst in his newspapers towards the Negro has estranged the vote from him, and Mr. Hearst is considered nothing more than a demagogic rhetorician, an artful political panderer to popu-

lar prejudice, seeking to control the people by specious and deceitful arts. He knows that a vote cast for his cause is a vote lost; a vote thrown away. His attitude towards the race has been in line with his political policy and is in severe contrast to the New York "World," which has always accorded the Negro a fair show and advocated just treatment for him.

At times the "World" has been alone in championing the cause of the race, and the World is with the cause of Democracy. Jeremiah says, "Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hand." The time is near, election day will be a day most propitious for her to do it, and in stretching forth that hand, a ballot will be cast for the entire Democratic State ticket. Those Republicans provoked at the defeat of Col. Roosevelt in the Republican caucus, and of the "Old Guard" at the Republican convention, will then realize that "whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Respectfully,

RUFUS L. PERRY.

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